

Duration: 15 minutes

What you are going to do:

Share information about Roots of Empathy's recent awards and any recent changes.

Why you are doing it:

To keep Instructors updated and enthusiastic about our organizational success.

Goals:

1. To further deepen the pride and connection Instructors feel to the organization.
2. To encourage Instructors to stay current with any future changes and accolades the program may receive.
3. To open the door for future communications and relationship building within the community.

What you need:

- Read section below

How you do it:

Roots of Empathy Updates

1. Please read the following message from Mary Gordon:
“When we step into the Roots of Empathy classroom, we step into the lives of children. This profound privilege allows us to understand how children are feeling and what they are thinking. We get a measure of the incredible moral courage children have to speak truth through their anxieties and dreams. We treasure this privilege and ROE’s raison d’être is to foster children’s innate empathy and to nurture their emotional literacy so, that they will be the framework of a more caring, peaceful and civil society.”
2. The impact of being a Roots of Empathy Instructor is cumulative, there is a ripple effect that extends to the broader community and world. Mary Gordon’s vision was bigger than the programs/programmes. It is encompassed in our mission statement and can be understood through academic citations, which quote Roots of Empathy research studies, Mary Gordon’s book and Mary Gordon influencing thinkers, leaders and students.
3. Impact comes in many forms and each year Roots of Empathy is recognized both nationally and internationally and has been the recipient of several awards recognizing our social innovation.

- Mary Gordon, our Founder and President, has consulted with and/or presented to the UN, the WHO, UNICEF, The Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund, and to governments. She is a regular keynote speaker at conferences and has several TEDx talks. She has been honoured with the Governor General’s Innovation Award, is a recipient of the Order of Canada, Order of Ontario, and Order of Newfoundland and Labrador, and is also the recipient of honorary doctorates in Canada and Europe.
 - Since 2018, Roots of Empathy has been honoured as one of the [100 most inspiring social innovations](#) in education by the Finnish education organization HundrED. HundrED aims to share inspirational ideas and projects across borders to improve the future of education worldwide. The innovations were identified through research, events and recommendations; over 700 projects were evaluated for their originality, impact and scalability.
 - In 2022, Roots of Empathy had the honour of being inducted into HundrED's Hall of Fame for Education Innovations. This elevation comes after being chosen each year, for 5 years in a row, from thousands of education innovations to be part of HundrED's global collections, chosen by their Academy of academics, educators, innovators, funders, and leaders from countries around the world. Fantastic recognition from an organization that seeks to promote "innovative, impactful and scalable approaches" that "help our children flourish in life" and that can be spread across the world. Roots of Empathy was 1 of 4 education innovations to be inducted for 2023.
4. Roots of Empathy measures its impact each year through the Annual Program Evaluation (both regionally and globally). The feedback questions are created to directly measure how we are meeting the goals of the program/programme, which are:
- To foster the development of emotional literacy and empathy.
 - To promote children's prosocial behaviours and reduce levels of bullying and aggression.
 - To prepare students for responsive parenting.
 - To prepare students for responsible citizenship.
 - To promote students’ mental health, wellbeing, and resilience.

*the last goal was first measured during the 2022-23 school year. Please read the following information from the 2023 Global Annual Program Evaluation, which describes the relevance of the new goal:

“In future years, sociologists will likely define the pandemic period by its impact on children of various stages of development as well as its impact on adults, the economy, polarization, marginalization, and particular challenges to how we view one another in the world. Children have become more anxious everywhere. Roots of Empathy supports children in learning to regulate their emotions thus freeing them up to learn.

Roots of Empathy fosters resilience in children. [Dr. Bruce Perry](#) stated, “Roots of Empathy is critically important as a resiliency building program. It teaches children how to develop a comfort level with creating relational opportunities.” [Dr. Michael Ungar](#), a world-renowned resilience expert, noted, “Roots of Empathy is seeding the foundational stones for a more resilient community.”

Roots of Empathy fosters the development of empathy and prosocial behaviours, both of which are associated with the ability to make friends and with positive mental health/emotional wellbeing. Empathy is necessary to build healthy relationships and resilience (Mehrabian, 2000; Jones et al., 2015).” (2023 ROE Global APE)

5. Please encourage Instructors, as our most dedicated ambassadors and storytellers to review the most recent Annual Program Evaluation for their region, which can be found on their Instructor Dashboard and shared with classroom teachers, school administrators, community leaders, and volunteer families.
6. Remind Instructors to register for future Virtual Instructor Cafés, where they can hear from Mary Gordon about the current state of children and education worldwide. The Instructor Cafés also offer excellent opportunities for professional learning and connecting with the organization.

KPP/ PM Update

In this section, the KPP/PM is invited to talk about any loose ends or to discuss local issues that haven't been touched on earlier in the day.